

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for tracking and disseminating ~~information concerning tools using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network;~~information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving product specification information concerning ~~the tool~~a tool from a user via ~~the device;~~a device connected to a server via a network;

comparing the received product specification information with pre-stored information on ~~tools;~~and tools;

displaying information related to the tool comprising displaying a useful remaining life of ~~the tool;~~the tool; and

selecting, via the device, one of a plurality of suppliers that made a request to obtain funding to buy the tool.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of ~~receiving tool~~receiving product specification information further comprises the step of receiving information pertaining to features selected by the user.

3. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said step of receiving information pertaining to features selected by the user further comprises the step of receiving information regarding at least one of a part name, part number, and a name of a plant that manufactures ~~the part;~~a part.

4. (currently amended) A method for tracking and disseminating ~~information concerning tools using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network;~~information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving product specification information concerning ~~the tool~~a tool from a user via ~~the device comprising the step of a~~device connected to a server via a network, wherein said receiving product specification information comprises receiving a

~~funding request for the tool;~~request to obtain funding to buy the tool configured to make a part;

comparing the received product specification information with pre-stored information on tools; and

displaying information related to the tool.

5. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said step of ~~receiving tool information data~~receiving product specification information from a user further comprises the step of receiving approval or disapproval in response to a ~~funding request for the tool.~~the request to obtain funding.

6. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool further comprises the step of displaying a ~~funding request pertaining to the tool.~~the request to obtain funding.

7. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool further comprises the step of displaying a specification for the tool.

8. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool comprises the step of displaying a price for the tool.

9. (currently amended) A method for tracking and disseminating ~~information concerning tools using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network,~~information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving product specification information concerning ~~the tool~~a tool from a user via ~~the device;~~a device connected to a server via a network;

comparing the received product specification information with pre-stored information on ~~tools;~~and tools;

displaying information related to the tool comprising the step of displaying information pertaining to the process by which the tool ~~is made~~is made; and

selecting, via the device, a name of a supplier that uses the tool.

10. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool further comprises the step of displaying a name of a plant where the tool is manufactured.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool further comprises the step of displaying a condition of the tool.

13. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of displaying information related to the tool further comprises the step of displaying a quote for the tool.

14. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the product specification information is received from the user via a graphical user interface.

15. – 21. (canceled)